

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 03350 300955Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /060 W
-----120473 300956Z /10

O R 300846Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7673
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3350

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AF
SUBJECT: LT. COLONEL ASLAM WATANJAR: LEADER OF COUP'S TANK FORCES

1. WE HAVE HEARD THAT A LT COLONEL ASLAM WATANJAR
(PHON: WAH-TAHN-YAHR), LED THE TANK FORCES IN THE COUP.
WATANJAR WAS THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH ARMORED
BRIGADE OUTSIDE KABUL. AT THE TIME OF THE COUP, THE
BRIGADE'S COMMANDER, COLONEL MOHAMMAD SARWAR, WAS
REPORTEDLY IN MOSCOW ON SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL VISIT.
WATANJAR AND COL. ABDUL QADIR ARE APPARENTLY THE PRINCIPAL
MILITARY LEADERS OF THE NEW REGIME.

2. OUR FILES REVEAL NOTHING REGARDING WATANJAR'S POLITICAL
VEIWS NOR HIS BACKGROUND. "WATAN" MEANS "HOMELAND",
AND "JAR" IN PUSHTO MEANS "SACRIFICER".
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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